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Genscher gets down to business in Argentina

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has visited Argentina, the first European foreign minister to do so since parliamentary democracy was restored in Buenos Aires. Herr Genscher, who was accompanied by a group of businessmen, discussed items such as foreign debt and trade.

Foreign Minister Genscher did more in Buenos Aires than exchange pleasantries. He made it clear Argentina could count on Bonn to make a substantial contribution toward multilateral agreement on rescheduling the country's public and government-backed debts.

He said so in terms so clear that they could almost be taken as a binding commitment. His words were bound to be welcomed in Argentina.

His hosts will also have appreciated him adding, with a note of conviction, that he was sure the Club of Paris would arrive at a solution satisfactory for both the creditors and Argentina's transfer capacity.

In Paris, where officials representing the governments of creditor countries are trying, in a backbreaking effort, to reschedule the skyrocketing debts of

Handelsblatt
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many developing countries, especially Latin American ones, thereby averting an international financial debacle, Herr Genscher's words will at least have caused a few eyebrows to be raised.

Had the fair wind from the River Plate just given the German Foreign Minister, of all people, the idea everyone has been looking for?

Is Hans-Dietrich Genscher poised to emerge as the new top-rank debt manager? Surprise will have been all the greater inasmuch as Bonn has a reputation of being a hard-liner on interest rates and capital repayments.

No-one need expect any radical change in German tactics. So Herr Genscher's all too specific words boil down to mere diplomacy.

They will have been music in the ears of his Argentinian hosts, of course, and an attempt by the Bonn Foreign Minister to strengthen the hand of German businessmen, a high-powered group of whom accompanied him.

For years they had claimed that Argentina had been left in foreign policy limbo by Bonn and they had had to forgo the political backing needed to do good business.

As the last Bonn Chancellor to visit Argentina was Willy Brandt 16 years ago, *there seems to be some justification* in these complaints.

They are even more warranted when one bears in mind that competitors maintained discreet and intensive ties with Argentina throughout the years of military rule.

That is particularly true of France and Italy, although they too tend to adopt a hard line when it comes to Argentinian debt settlement.

Germany ranks second in importance to the United States as a trading partner of Argentina, and if it was to maintain its place in the import-export stakes Herr Genscher had to give German industry a hefty plug.

Not for nothing was great importance attached to the fact that he was the first European Foreign Minister to visit the country since the restoration of parliamentary democracy.

Early this summer Chancellor Kohl will also visit Buenos Aires to keep up the good work. But he may be embarrassed if he is asked point-blank what to expect of Herr Genscher's debt undertaking.

Ewald Stein
(Handelsblatt, 19 April 1984)



Argentina's President Alfonsin (left) and Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Buenos Aires. Debt scheduling and trade were among the topics. Argentina is Germany's largest trading partner in South America after Brazil.

IN THIS ISSUE

Berlin's mayor flies flag in Washington

Governing Mayor Eberhard Diepgen's first visit to Washington revealed growing interest in Berlin in the US capital now the city is not in the headlines any longer for streetfighting week after week.

It also showed how keen the US administration is to know more about the young generation of German politicians it will have to reckon with for the next 20 years.

Washington's chief interest was in two issues of topical and supraregional importance: the buzzing of Allied airliners by Soviet air force planes in the air corridors and the spate of exit permits issued to GDR citizens to leave for the West.

Mayor Diepgen said close attentions should be paid to events in the air corridors, but the situation ought not to be dramatised, which was evidently just how the Americans felt.

His efforts to dispel any fears of a German road to neutralism were welcomed. Freedom, he said, had priority over unity. He was heartily applauded.

Frankfurter
Neue Presse

To judge by what one hears, he made a good impression on the Americans. His optimism was particularly impressive.

"At last," a State Department official said, "we have a visitor from Europe who isn't complaining but sounds hopeful instead."

So it was that Eberhard Diepgen brought back two encouraging developments, which is more than can be said of a West Berlin mayor for many a long year.

To mark the 35th anniversary of the end of the blockade, on 11 May 1984, a high-ranking US government delegation led by Interior Secretary Clark will visit Berlin.

It will emphasise the importance the United States continues to attach to the city.

PanAm also told him they were going to transfer their German and European head office to Berlin.

Mayor Diepgen can also count the visit a success in view of the March 1985 city council elections in which he will face the voters for the first time as burgomaster.

He has made a success of his first international visit, showing himself to be as capable of acquitting himself well in the international arena as his Social Democratic challenger, former Bonn Defence Minister Hans Apel.

Liselotte Müller
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 17 April 1984)



A silver salver for the president. President Reagan (left) accepts a gift from his guest, the West Berlin mayor, Eberhard Diepgen, in Washington. Diepgen performed well on this, his first official foreign trip. (Photos: dpa)



■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Opinion split wide open on mine-laying decision

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

President Reagan's decision to mine Nicaraguan ports has been greeted in the United States both with criticism and with hearty applause.

On Capitol Hill both the House and the Senate have condemned the move by an overwhelming majority.

Secretary of State Shultz appears to feel it is both in breach of international law and a mistake.

Close associates of Mr Reagan, such as Senators Barry Goldwater and Chuck Percy, have been hopping mad.

Defence Secretary Weinberger, to be on the safe side, has no comment whatever to make.

But this all-party rejection front has been challenged by two leading American politicians, UN ambassador Jean Kirkpatrick and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Mrs Kirkpatrick specifically said US participation in the mine-laying had been legal, while Dr Kissinger at least considers the move to have been justified.

Where US policy on Central and South America is concerned, Mrs Kirkpatrick has long been the most eloquent hard-liner in the Reagan administration.

She dismisses Secretary of State Shultz and his associates both on and off the record as indecisive weaklings.

Her associates make it clear that if Mr Reagan is re-elected she even feels she stands, or should stand, a chance of succeeding Mr Shultz at the State Department.

Henry Kissinger is also keen on the job. He has been tired for some time of his role as an elder statesman and highly-paid public speaker.

Both are experienced politicians and neither Mrs Kirkpatrick nor, least of all, Dr Kissinger are likely to have arrived at their judgements on ground of mere expediency.

Personal plans for the future may have prompted them to express their views so forcibly, but both can be expected to have said what they honestly felt.

Yet the many opposing views make one feel bound to wonder whether mine-laying, undertaken with US assistance, was truly sensible and advisable.

The legal situation seems to be fairly straightforward. International law specialists at the State Department refer to an act in breach of international law.

President Reagan has laid claim to a counter-right to act in self-defence.

During his Presidency he aims to do all he can to prevent Central America, Uncle Sam's back yard, from turning communist because the Russians who would then gain a foothold would represent a direct threat to US security.

This law of the jungle in politics is not an American invention any more than it was first thought of by the Reagan administration. Instances of it are found throughout history.

Not only the Huns, the Mongols and the Goths have been guilty of it. So, in the recent past, have Russians, Americans and Germans, to name but a few.

The world of honest protest is nonetheless disappointed that Americans of the standing of President Reagan have double standards.

While preaching principles of peaceful coexistence they nonetheless forget at the first opportunity the right to self-determination they set out to defend.

Has the mining done the United States and its allies a disservice or not? It remains to be seen. The resurrection of the Ugly American in both East and West seems sure to have far-reaching political consequences.

Washington has supplied the East with propaganda material and a pretext on which to justify moves of its own that in international law terms are equally dubious, if not more so.

In countries that are America's allies the reckless way in which Washington currently seems to be pursuing foreign policy is grist to the mill of those who war against Europe serving as an accomplice of politicians who allegedly favour aggression.

One can but hope the White House will soon realise that critics of the mining are not all communist-infiltrated.

The overwhelming majority are free citizens and politicians who are genuinely worried about America's moral integrity and the effectiveness of Western unity.

Peter W. Schroeder

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 17 April 1984)

Behind Soviet offer of naval talks

DIE WELT

The latest Soviet proposal for talks on naval arms limitation deserves to be welcomed. Disarmament, after all, is always good.

Besides, one can be gratified that the side which broke off talks on missile disarmament is now keen to return to the conference table, this time to discuss disarmament at sea.

Yet Mr Gromyko's move, in the form of a letter to the UN secretary-general, calls to mind the lamentable fact that the tale of arms control has so far been one of almost constant disappointments.

The Soviet Union may be a great one for submitting proposals but it is also a past master at blocking negotiations once they get going.

To take but one example among many, it was the Soviet delegation at the UN that many years ago suggested that member-countries ought to submit details of their military spending.

Intentions, trends, new developments and the like would thus be made clear to everyone else and contribute toward confidence-building.

Most Western countries, and some in the Third World, have since rendered account of their military expenditure to the UN, but not the Soviet Union.

Its sole objective in making the proposal was to achieve the propaganda effect. In practice it has no intention of divulging details of its military planning.

Would the tale be any different with regard to naval armament? It is strikingly apparent that Moscow has only broached this sector of arms control now it feels itself to have drawn level with the United States in sea power.

Besides, the geostrategic position of the two superpowers makes the Soviet bid seem extremely dubious.

The Soviet Union as a classical land power can get by without shipping links, unlike Western Europe, which is America's major ally.

The Soviet proposal to prevent superpower fleets from operating far away from their home ports for too long is aimed at the US Sixyth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

Yet if the Sixth Fleet were not based where it is, the balance of power on Nato's southern flank would have swung in Moscow's favour.

Rüdiger Moniac

(Die Welt, 17 April 1984)

The proxy war being fought in the jungles of Indo-China

General-Anzeiger

Tension and raids have been the bread and butter of Sino-Vietnamese relations since the end of the second Indo-Chinese war.

They form part of the tradition of historic feuds that periodically erupted even during the Vietnam war when Peking was supplying North Vietnam with arms and food.

But truth and reality are hidden behind the impenetrable Bamboo Curtain. World opinion must still rely on speculation.

The only reliable fact in connection with surmises about the latest clash on the border between China and Vietnam is that it was a fresh punitive move by China.

China is strongly opposed to Vietnam's hegemonial strategy in Indo-China, especially in Kampuchea.

Hanoi planned its customary pre-monsoon offensive in Kampuchea to flush out the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

Thailand, Kampuchea's western neighbour and the logistical base for Kampuchean resistance to the Vietnamese, has as usual come back under fire.

The Khmer Rouge are making life difficult for Vietnamese occupation forces totalling an estimated 160,000 men, but lack the clout to force them militarily to withdraw.

Fighting has been going on for over five years. The cost is heavy for Vietnam, which has a long way to go before it recovers from its exhausting victory over the Americans.

As allies of Moscow, the Vietnamese share mutual and reciprocal interests with the Soviet Union.

The Russians have been granted military base rights on the Vietnamese coast, by which they enjoy a strategically indispensable position in South-East Asia.

Hanoi can rely in return on massive Soviet aid in terms of arms and material to help it to realise its ambition of gaining hegemony along China's soft underbelly.

Dreams of an Indo-Chinese empire under Vietnamese leadership have never really been abandoned since the revolutionary end to the colonial era in the region.

But the Vietnamese and their Kampuchean opponents are still only fighting a war by proxy between the real warring parties, Russia and China.

China is opposed to Soviet intervention in traditional zones of influence in South-East Asia.

Russia is keen to maintain and extend the position it has established in the area since the American withdrawal from Indo-China.

The US military withdrawal was a field day for the Soviet Union, which benefited from the Vietnamese victory and has every intention of extending its influence in Indo-China.

That is the background to the embittered Chinese resistance to the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea and the struggle to consolidate Chinese interests in communist Laos.

It is the reason for clashes on a border where they can readily happen, a border where, in spring 1979, China embarked on a punitive expedition against Vietnam that took a heavy toll in terms of lives without being particularly effective.

China is trying to exert influence on the aftermath of the Vietnam war from which, by virtue of Hanoi's victory, the Soviet Union emerged in a more favourable position.

Peking's aim on the border with Vietnam and in the Kampuchean jungle is to make this legacy an intolerable burden on its executors.

But Vietnam is likely to sustain for a long time to come the military and economic cost for the sake of objectives that remain the same as they were in the war against America.

The only way in which one can possibly envisage Hanoi being persuaded to abandon its dreams of old would be if Moscow and Peking were to come to terms.

That is hard to imagine at present, but if it happened Vietnam would have to pay the price of abandoning its commitments in Kampuchea.

As long as the Soviet Union remains a party to the conflict, artillery fire on the Sino-Vietnamese border will remain nothing out of the ordinary. There will be no peace in Kampuchea either.

Friedhelm Kemna

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 12 April 1984)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

SPD's Peter Glotz, a man without a pigeon-hole

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

There is an aura of tragedy about SPD business manager Peter Glotz. He not only works his fingers to the bone as party manager but also performs an extra role as Social Democratic thinker and voluntary one-man think tank.

Yet he is still regarded by Social Democrats as something of an outsider. Rank-and-file members expect there to be a fair number of votes cast against him at next month's party conference in Hesse.

His problems must have something to do with the fact that he is such a difficult person to pigeonhole. Parties as a rule love and respect their leaders when they conform with a preconceived notion.

But Glotz just doesn't fit any of the convenient clichés, neither the justified ones nor the injustified ones.

He has, for instance, done many jobs for the party but he cannot be said to have come up through the ranks from the bottom up.

Many people say that to this day he is insufficiently aware of the needs, worries and views of ordinary Social Democrats in the average local branch.

This discrepancy starts with appearances. Glotz may like to cast himself as a dyed-in-the-wool Social Democrat, but at the same time he has an upper middle-class air about him.

He likes fine clothes and living in a high-class residential area. The run-of-the-mill Social Democrat in the Ruhr or from the backwoods of Bavaria doesn't take kindly to such a life style.

Another contradiction is that with his academic background (he graduated in communication studies) and the appearance he gives is of an intellectual.

But his main job at present is the altogether more mundane one of managing the party's affairs.

Dialogue is a favourite word of his, and he is more than a match in debate for most dons, students and politicians (as in a recent *Spiegel* debate with Heiner Geissler of the CDU).

Yet even though he can frame ideas in graphic terms he tends to overtax Social Democrats when, with a slight impression of nervousness, he pulls out the rhetorical stops and lets loose the ideas and turns of phrase that strike him.

He answers questions that have not even been asked, one observer has shrewdly noted.

Where he stands politically is also hard to say, which irritates the average Social Democrat who likes matters to be cut and dried.

He first embarked on an SPD career in Bavaria as a typical right-wing Social Democrat. But in spite of his enormous output of interviews and books it is almost impossible to pigeonhole him any more.

All that can be said with any certainty is that he isn't an ideologist, or at most an advocate of what is both left-wing and feasible.

An individual as untypical as he is would have a hard time of it in any party, but life is hardest in the SPD with the rules and conventions that still govern what is a Social Democratic sub-culture.

In one of his books he compares the manoeuvrability of the SPD with that of a supertanker, but he himself fails to bear the point sufficiently in mind.

He is quick to think, speak and write, which is usually an advantage, but he is a little too fast for the SPD, which is to his disadvantage.



Peter Glotz . . . sharp debater (Photo: Sven Simon)

He took over as business manager at the end of 1980, having been handpicked for the job by Willy Brandt. He was already known to many Social Democrats as a hard-working spokesman on education and the media.

Yet they were amazed at how quick off the mark a Social Democrat can be. In his first few months in the job he was evidently unhappy if he had not given at least one major interview before meals.

There was not a microphone within striking distance that could be sure of not being taken over by Peter Glotz.

This productivity was scaled down when he and his advisers noticed that his output was proving counter-productive. Yet the prevailing view among Social Democrats is still that he is far too quick and switches issues far too fast.

A former Young Socialist leader coined the term Glotzism to describe this form of intellectual mobility.

In the final analysis he has confused the party by, for example, the speed at which he has sought to persuade it to adopt a new policy on the new media.

Social Democrats were suddenly supposed to be in favour of commercial radio and TV, which has previously been considered a cardinal sin. That was bound to trigger resistance.

Realists were not impressed by the acrobatic feat by which he sought to show that the SPD defeat in the Baden-Württemberg state assembly elections were in fact a defeat for the Christian and Free Democrats.

Political parties tend to gloss over their position, but this bid was felt to be too much.

He has many qualities, and Social Democrats admire his intellectual artistry.

But, as a man who is very much attuned to him admits, "he is not the sort of man you like." *Rudolf Grosskopff*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 22 April 1984)

The big role of personalities in politics

The CDU and FDP leaders, Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher, are not on the best of terms with CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian Prime Minister.

Yet when there is a major task, politicians usually set aside personal animosities. Willy Brandt, for instance, strongly dislikes Herbert Wehner and Helmut Schmidt.

But the three Social Democratic leaders gritted their teeth and got on with the business for many years.

Herr Strauss has pressurised the Chancellor and arguably humiliated him even by saying he wasn't fit to stand as Shadow Chancellor and contesting the 1980 general election campaign as Shadow Chancellor himself instead.

KielerNachrichten

It is hardly surprising that revenge is sweet for Herr Kohl, who took over as Chancellor and won the subsequent general election in spite of Herr Strauss.

Understandably, and rightly so, he doesn't want to have Herr Strauss in his Cabinet if he can avoid it.

Yet the Chancellor would be unwise to make the point too often and too pointedly to rile his rival.

The 11 April talks between the leaders of the three coalition parties were the first since last summer. CDU and CSU politicians who are well disposed toward the Chancellor have advised him to overcome his dislike and invite Herr Strauss to Bonn more often.

They counsel this course of action even though the Bavarian Prime Minister has in the past broken what were felt to have been firm agreements and now has less influence on the course of events.

Herr Strauss is, after all, the leader of the second-largest party in the Bonn coalition, and CSU Cabinet Ministers in Bonn are unhappy about their leader feeling neglected.

The three leaders agreed to meet more often, but meetings must not become a regular fixture and run any risk of becoming sessions of an alternative government.

The Chancellor and Foreign Minister can be relied on to ensure that doesn't happen. They will be prepared to allow Herr Strauss a say, but not a share in effective power.

Is it a case of Bonn being too haughty toward an old man in Munich who has such a wide range of experience they could benefit from?

Let us look at what the Bavarian leader has to say on current issues.

He agrees with powerful forces within the CDU that tax reforms badly need to support the family as an institution.

He agrees with the Free Democrats, with whom he otherwise doesn't see eye to eye, that tax as a disincentive to performance is bad.

One wonders how he feels about Finance Minister Stoltenberg's plan. He certainly used to agree with him that government spending and the public sector borrowing requirement had to be reduced.

He has objected to the provisions for early retirement that have now been agreed on, and his objections are sound, but what alternative does he propose?

He may complain about Bonn being ineffective at marketing government policy. Shortcomings are undeniable.

But even poorer propaganda in support of allegedly good work could not be more damaging than a coalition party leader and Bavarian Prime Minister who publicly denigrates his Chancellor and his own coalition. *Jürgen Lorenz*

(Kieler Nachrichten, 12 April 1984)

Tougher going for the Young Socialists

The Young Socialists have always been an organisation of up-and-coming Social Democrats in the biological sense inasmuch as to be a Young Socialist you must also be a member of the parent party.

So when Young Socialists no longer qualify as "young" — at the age of 35 — they remain what they already were: Social Democrats.

But since the mid-1970s they have strikingly failed to supply fresh blood for the leadership of the SPD.

Infighting wore the organisation out. Changing economic circumstances left the Young Socialists unable to come up with attractive ideas of social change.

In the peace movement and among environmentalist groups the Young Socialists were one voice among many. They no longer led the field.

The SPD was also in power in Bonn for longer than was good for its youth wing, so much so that the outgoing Young Socialist leader, Rudolf Hartung, can ever pride himself on having kept the Young Socialists going at all.

When the SPD lost power and returned to the Opposition benches in the Bonn Bundestag the Young Socialists did not automatically regain lost ground.

Ten or 12 years ago the Young Socialists pursued a twofold strategy to enlist the support of young people. Others now do a better job of it.

Greens and Alternatives are more successful at activating and retaining the

SüddeutscheZeitung

support of young voters who were traditionally the hunting ground of the Young Socialists.

SPD policy on ecological and economic issues is at present determined more by established Social Democrats than by the youth wing.

The Young Socialists are badly in need of a political reappraisal. It is time they took a long hard look at themselves and entered into a strategy debate that would help them jettison ideological ballast.

The newly-elected Young Socialist leader Ulf Skirke would like to see the organisation work in a more open and pluralistic manner.

He was elected by 74 per cent of delegates. Maybe that alone is a promising sign.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 April 1984)

■ SOCIETY

Academy looks at the meaning of civil disobedience in Germany

Vorwärts

Is civil disobedience just a fashionable craze, as the title of a conference at the Theodor Heuss Academy in Gummersbach, near Cologne, suggested?

The question was intended to be provocative, and it was. Speakers were very much opposed to the implication.

The ironic implication was that if resistance was a craze like, say, jogging, then it was fashionable and "in" to be against whatever happened to come under fire.

Interestingly, most participants, and they were mainly pupils and students, disagreed. Resistance, they argued, had used to be for an elite; it was now merely establishing a democratic base.

This was the argument put forward by Professor Roland Reichwein, from Münster. His father belonged to an anti-Nazi resistance group and paid for it with his life.

Professor Reichwein wanted to see the concept of resistance separate and distinct from fixation on the Third Reich.

He feels the view that there can be no resistance in a democratic state is mistaken, dangerous and typically German.

Democratic resistance must constantly be offered to claims to predominance by groups and to misuse of economic power.

Resistance to undemocratic trends must also begin early, given that in a modern totalitarian state resistance is virtually impossible owing to Orwellian surveillance techniques.

Resistance, it was objected, could hardly be said to be offered when it entailed no serious risk. So civil disobedience was suggested as an alternative concept.

It is defined by Rawls as a public, non-violent, conscience-orientated but illegal act generally aimed at bringing about legal changes or a change in government policy.

This definition exactly coincides with what the peace movement seeks to do.

Regardless whether resistance or civil disobedience is preferred as the term by which to describe the phenomenon, Allensbach opinion polls prove it is more than a mere craze in Germany.

Polls show that in recent years there has been a striking increase in advocacy of violence or the use of force in political disputes.

This growing support is in evidence not only among young people and those who sympathise with the Greens; it is also apparent among older people and even supporters of the Christian Democrats.

Views on legality and legitimation clash head-on. Action that is illegal may yet be considered legitimate. Resistance to legal moves by the state and authorities is felt to be valid.

This feeling is linked with a tremendous distrust of the law, the courts and judges. Only 26 per cent of Germans asked had confidence in them.

People who vote Social Democrat or Green have least confidence in the law.

Unquestionably the most interesting contribution to the debate was made by Frankfurt educationalist Professor Ernst Jouhy.

In his view a true democrat is always both a citizen and a rebel, but personal experience as a resister (and he is 70) had, he said, taught him that every fight for justice also had to share the blame for injustice.

He had been an impassioned opponent of US policy in Vietnam but now felt he was partly to blame for Pol Pot, whom he arguably helped to achieve power.

It would, he feels in retrospect, have been better to oppose US adventurism in Vietnam while at the same time warning against the forces behind Vietnamese resistance.

Professor Jouhy has devised a philosophy of what he calls complementary truth. As truths are never absolute he feels it is essential always to bear in mind the truth one is fighting against.

This might be considered inconsistent, but he says inconsistent opposition is a token of democracy and an effective means of bringing influence to bear.

In his view consistency in politics is the risk we run in this day and age: the Orwell age.

"Truth is always complementary. Given my limited vision I cannot identify with both truths I hold to exist. I have to reach a decision, but I must always bear the other truth in mind."

For him that means resistance within one's own group, democratic revolt, living as a rebel yet aiming at order.

He is convinced the theory of complementary truth also applies in world affairs. "We must aim at a system that is not governed by any one power but accepts different social systems as part of a comprehensive order," he says.

Werner Schulz-Reimpell

(Vorwärts, 12 April 1984)



Interior Minister Zimmermann (Photo: Poly-Press)

Right-wing extremists stepping up activities, says report

Bremer Nachrichten

Right-wing extremists are becoming more of a nuisance, says the annual report of the *Verfassungsschutz*, the Cologne agency that monitors espionage and political extremism.

It says left-wing extremist activity seems to be stagnating.

Last year the security authorities in fact unearthed substantial arms caches, thereby nipping in the bud a considerable terrorist potential.

That still didn't make life easier for the authorities in Germany, where left-wing extremism heads the list in the report presented by Bonn Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann.

The reason for this order of importance is straightvorward. Terrorist activity and membership of left-wing extremist groups are much higher than of what can be pigeonholed under right-wing extremism.

But the authorities must also note the extent to which right-wing groups and individuals are emerging as dangerous opponents of freedom and democracy.

Years ago this aspect could fairly be dismissed as a minor and insignificant consideration. But not any more. Narrowmindedness and delusion, criminality and violence have been sown and taken root.

Neither extreme of the political spectrum develops entirely without precedent. Left- and right-wing writers supply the ideological substructure.

Xenophobia and racial delusions are key features in the right-wing mix. It is worth mentioning yet again at this point that it is more than a mystery why it is still not illegal to claim that Auschwitz was a "lie."

What makes burgeoning right-wing extremism so difficult to combat, if experience so far is any guide, is its unpredictability and tendency toward violence.

Last year, the *Verfassungsschutz* reports, there were over 20,000 members of extreme right-wing organisations.

It might be thought that the authorities would have little difficulty in dealing with such numbers.

But the experts are right in assessing right-wing terrorism as particularly virulent. The implication is that unpleasant surprises may lie ahead.

Karl Hugo Pruys

(Bremer Nachrichten, 7 April 1984)

Need challenged for census, computerised ID card

DIE ZEIT

Data protection officials may have taken time to close ranks, but they have finally settled down and submitted a catalogue of demands to Bonn Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann.

It amounts to a fresh start for protection from data abuse and for a watchdog role that for years has looked as though it was on the verge of extinction.

Basing their case on the right to informational self-determination outlined in the Constitutional Court ruling on last year's census that never was, data protection officers of the Federal and state government call for a fundamental review of the existing practice.

First, they doubt whether there is any real need for a computerised ID card, but even if there is, legal provisions must first be made or amended at both Federal and state level.

Second, they reaffirm the Constitutional Court ruling that statistical data must not be used for administrative purposes, such as bringing registration office files up to date.

Is there any need for a census at all? Are there not other means of achieving the desired result? In future, censuses will first need to be justified.

Third, the data ombudsmen deal with the toughest nut of all. Computerisation, they say, must be subject to legal requirements where the security authorities are concerned.

That means law enforcement agencies and the three intelligence services: the *Verfassungsschutz*, the MAD and the *Bundesnachrichtendienst*.

Official decrees or regulations must no longer be permissible as a means of gaining illicit access to data.

This cannot be said to be an elegant solution. It means more red tape and more legislation and legal niceties.

But it seems the only solution now the Data Protection Act has been seen to rule out any direct control over the computer activities of the security authorities.

There were good reasons why the Act was not to apply to them. There still are. But they are hard to reconcile with the constitutional right of informational self-determination.

The compromise proposal is unsatisfactory. All compromises are. But it is better than nothing, and it would lay a legal groundwork enabling the courts to check and deal with abuse.

As if their demands were not explosive enough already, the data protection catalogue also calls for private data banks, as maintained by banks, insurance companies and employers, to be run in keeping with public-sector requirements.

That too is strictly in keeping with the Constitutional Court ruling, although it will certainly not endear them to private data collectors, who have had their own way for too long.

At the dawn of a new media era, with potentially unlimited access to data, these warning shots are sounded not a moment too soon.

(Die Zeit, 13 April 1984)

■ EUROPE

Königswinter conference calls for patience by the people and political imagination

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Europe as discussed by British and German delegates to the 34th Königswinter conference, held this year in Cambridge, England, presented a familiar picture.

It was that of extensive milk lakes and towering butter mountains in the background, and in the foreground one woman and nine men, the ten EEC leaders, blandly proclaiming Europe to be a community.

People from the ten countries look on and wonder what they stand to gain from this performance. Most are aware that they are being asked to foot the bill.

There can be no question of membership being free. It costs billions, and the issue on which the larger member-countries are at odds is whether they ought in future to be paying more or less in contributions.

These contributions to the EEC kitty are a sensitive issue because the taxpayers who foot the bill are also voters who can given national governments the boot.

That is why the European Community increasingly resembles an Alpine dairy (Alpine in respect of the lakes and mountains of surplus farm produce) of which the board of directors meets for increasingly frequent sessions.

What lies on the other side of the mountains? What lies in store for the Common Market's 12 million unemployed, for instance, if the mountains are ever scaled?

A promised land?

Will Europe be a promised land with worries other than its eight million farmers? Or is it no longer worth the trouble of embarking on the arduous ascent?

Is the fact of the matter that the powers that be have nothing better in mind than to solemnly offer the most powerful lobby at any given moment (powerful in terms of voting strength) still heavier subsidies?

Let worriers rest assured that Europe is better than its reputation, whereas professional optimists need reminding that the harvest has by no means yet been brought in.

Europe, as the 34th Königswinter conference clearly showed, still requires patience on the part of its citizens and courage and imagination on the part of its politicians.

It is important not to forget, the progress that has been made. Europe, as Kurt Biedenkopf, economics don and leading Christian Democrat, noted in a witty and intelligent closing address, must give its successes a hearing.

Was it nothing, he asked, that he as a Düsseldorf professor on a flight from New York to London could look on happily as American colleagues filled in a landing card he as an EEC citizen was no longer required to fill in?

True, it was no more than a symbol, but by no means an unimportant one. Where frontiers grow less perceptible the integrating effect of a community may be presumed to take effect.

The Anglo-German Society has held annual gatherings of politicians, industrial leaders and academic experts since 1951.

Conferences are held in Königswinter, near Bonn on the Rhine, one year and in England the next. They are the political life's work of Lilo Milchsack.

She is an untiring Berlin woman who has never ceased to champion the cause of fresh political headway for democracy in Europe and consolidation of what has already been achieved.

This year the conference was held at St Catherine's, a college founded in 1473, which makes it one of the more recent Cambridge colleges.

It showed there is still more than enough left to do to finally give the European Community political shape and an influential voice in world affairs in keeping with its importance.

It is a hard and stony path, but by no means a thankless task, especially when the alternative is considered.

Speakers voiced fears of Europe trailing helplessly behind the Japanese and the untiring and imaginative Americans in advanced technology and possibly forfeiting the professional future of an entire generation.

Many reasons were advanced to account for this risk. Many prospective solutions to the problems were put forward and discussed.

The borderline between viewpoints is European. Views are disputed not by British and Germans but by trade unionists and employers, Conservatives and politicians of other hues.

The latter include Otto Schily of the Greens in the Bonn Bundestag, a lawyer by profession and eloquent spokesman for the ecological case.

They include suggestions such as the proposal to set up an investment aid agency financed by the EEC governments to bankroll the restructuring of companies that hold forth long-term promise of success.

Ideas of this kind are lauded or dismissed depending on one's views on the state's role in a free economy, but regardless of the speaker's mother tongue.

But no-one, one is happy to say, took issue with the plea by Edzard Reuter, financial director of Daimler-Benz, for a free market economy with social commitments.

A Tory MP appealed to the conference in the polished tones of impeccable Queen's English: "How on earth are we to make Europe palatable to young people when we have no jobs to offer them yet the rich grow ever richer?"

Why, for that matter, can't Western Europeans help people in the Third World more effectively? Is it not a disgrace that people are dying by the thousand while EEC officials in Brussels devise ways and means of producing, stockpiling and destroying farm surpluses?

Can the European Community's political will be given expression in the form of a European peace corps?

Why, asked SPD leader Shirley Williams, must we look on idly while cash is doled out to the dictatorial regime in El Salvador while the struggle of an elected civilian President of Argentina to introduce democracy and human rights may be thwarted by the burden of the debts his country has been saddled with by previous military governments?

Europe, said Walter Leisler Kiep of the CDU in Bonn, must campaign on behalf of the realisation that Third World problems cannot simply be seen in terms of the East-West conflict.

The problems of Africa, Asia and Latin America were problems of their own, and even the Soviet Union could do no more than fuel fires where the locals had merely played with fire.

Whatever shape individual views may have taken, the message to respective governments was clear. A political meaningful Europe, especially if it is to be an attractive proposition for young people, must in the final analysis be a community that offers true assistance to suffering mankind.

In spite of this readiness to take a wider view and not just limit the debate to European affairs it was clear that nothing concerned delegates more urgently than whether East-West relations might be put back on an even keel.

British speakers were anxious to ensure that their anxiety was not confused with what they felt was a widespread inclination, especially in Germany, to be afraid of war.

Yet disarmament talks have so far been a failure. We face the threat of a fresh nuclear and chemical arms race. The militarisation of outer space is everywhere felt to be pointless and dangerous.

What, in the circumstances, can Europe do to lend common sense a helping hand? A number of solutions are proposed. A number of speakers succumbed to the temptation to refer to recent talks they had held in Moscow.

The quality of inside information received is still a popular ploy used by political leaders to make the point that they are in a class of their own.

Karsten Voigt, SPD spokesman on foreign affairs in the Bundestag, even played as his trump card talks he had held with Mr Chernenko.

That was arguable the highest trump played at the conference. But everyone at the gathering seem convinced of the need for EEC leaders to deal more clearly and energetically with matters of peace.

The trump card

It is strange and alarming to feel that while heads of government burn the midnight oil bargaining over milk output and budget problems, ambassadors are left to handle missile talks.

Disarmament and arms control, the Middle East and vital issues of defence strategy must at long last hold pride of place at EEC summits.

London, Paris and Bonn can ensure they are given sufficient attention if only they want to do so.

All three must seek to avoid unnecessary friction. The initial dialogue between Bonn and Paris on security and defence affairs, for instance, has given rise to anxiety in Whitehall.

There were constant queries at Cambridge what lay behind this bid and whether it was an attempt to uncouple Britain.

Did people on the Continent infer from Mrs Thatcher's style of dealing with the Common Market that Britain was not, perhaps, wholeheartedly European in outlook?

This mistrust must be eliminated before it begins to spread and take root.

France agreed to British membership of the EEC in 1973 as a counterbalance to Germany. Bonn now needs London's assistance in explaining to Paris that France needs defending on the intra-German border and not behind the Rhine.

Paris, the French must be told, will have to share in this forward defence. This is a major European issue on which joint endeavours by Britain and Germany are needed.

Politicians must ensure, many speakers felt, that time and effort were not wasted on wondering who was in cahoots with whom.

Europe was the common denominator and needed by all. Nothing short of a common stand by Europe could hope to ensure that influence was brought to bear on security policy in Washington.

American as a superpower was not going to pay much heed to a pipsqueak voice from Europe, whereas it would definitely heed one that carried political clout.

Unity not essential

The was no need for a United States of Europe to ensure the European views were given a hearing, which was just as well inasmuch as it would be a long time, if ever, before any such entity was established.

Yet a Europe of fatherlands, to use de Gaulle's term, could also be politically effective.

Heads of government can give their imagination full rein in bringing it about. Why, for instance, should a conscript not do military service in another EEC country?

Can governments, and organisations such as trade unions, not allocate top jobs only to applicants who have at least a smattering of foreign languages?

Is it really out of the question for the European Community to maintain peace-keeping forces for the United Nations that are ready to keep warring parties apart in the world's trouble spots?

Let this at least be done if politicians are unable to make lasting peace.

Not every such idea might stand the test of time, but why not try out one or the other?

Who in the early 1950s would have dared to imagine that in 1984 the second direct elections to a European Parliament would be held, that France and Germany would be peaceful neighbours and that Britain would have withdrawn from world commitments and taken its place in Europe?

But there is no time to rest on one's laurels, as the 34th Königswinter conference made it abundantly clear. To attempt to do so is to jeopardise what has so far been achieved.

In a year's time, back in Königswinter, the conference will meet again and we shall see whether the powers that be have taken any of the ideas voiced at Cambridge to heart.

Walther Stützle

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 10 April 1984)

■ THE HANOVER TRADE FAIR

German exhibitors reflect a renewed confidence

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Business confidence was not the only thing apparent at this year's Hanover Fair, the world's largest show of capital goods. West German industry was again self-assertive. The doubts of previous years have disappeared.

Along with expectations that better times were ahead there was a feeling that industry was a match for the best in the world.

In the public mind micro-electronics are synonymous with progress. The importance of this basic technology for the national economy is recognised.

German industry has not completely mastered this basic technology. The pacemakers are the Japanese and then the Americans. But Hanover showed that the distance between the West German industry and the leaders has not widened.

West German factories are producing chips that have 64,000 storage cells. Companies have re-equipped, modernised and extended themselves so that they can better serve export markets.

Siemens, for instance, now supplies chips to the United States. It is expected that US turnover will be 20 million dollars from semi-conductors this year, but seven years ago it was only 50,000 dollars.

Europe has also kept up with the development of highly complex chips. It is certain that by introducing X-rays into semi-conductor production West German manufacturers have made a considerable leap forward, and that the industry has set international standards in the production of chips for specialised use, for car manufacture or for information technology.

The strengths of West German capital goods lies in their applications. In recent years laboratory success does not mean all that much, but depends certainly on the cooperation between scientists, engineers, technicians, craftsmen and salesmen out in the practical world.

Nixdorf deputy chairman Klaus Luft said: "We have by far the best thought-through systems any way."

A country's competitiveness is not only founded in basic technology, but in the willingness of companies and their managements to apply the new techniques and the ability of staff to handle them.

The computer is king in West Germany and a specialist probably has a terminal at his work and probably a personal computer at home. Medium-sized and small companies have automatised their production and rationalised their administration.

"Software made in Germany" has a good world reputation. When it is a question of solving problems with the new technology in small firms and in branches of industry Germans are asked to step in.

Their solutions are more practical because they know how better to take into consideration the customer's particular requirements.

And German industry does not need to hide its light under a bushel when it come to highly complex programmes, data banks, expert systems or developments in artificial intelligence.

This is not only a merit held by the large computer organisations but also by the many small firms producing software that were at Hanover en masse.

The informatic departments at universities should also not be underestimated. They make ever-increasing use of the Hanover Fair to present their services.

The more complex the applications the better the chance for West German industry. The future of mass markets with relatively simple production does not look so rosy.

This weak spot in German production was to be found in the giant Cebit Hall at the fair's north entrance. Manufacturers' products lacked not only flair but seemed wanting in ideas.

Photocopying machines have for years come from Japan. Home and personal computers come in vast quantities from the United States, mechanical typewriters come mainly from countries where wages are low and the Japanese are planning a new export offensive for electronic typewriters.

On the other the telecommunications industry has already decided to investigate the chances of using micro-electronics.

For a long time things did not look too good. A few years ago German posts got nowhere with trials with an electronic dialling system.

Many countries energetically fought against digital dialling but now the Bundespost is trying to established the first international standardised digital network. This is pioneering work, and means that our country will have a domestic network that can handle not only the spoken word, but text and pictures.

The economy has a new instrument with which to improve its competitiveness, and firms participating in the building up of this network will acquire experience that will put them well ahead of their competitors in international markets. Finally this will all be helped by the development and construction of new terminals.

There is another project that bodes well for the future. A West German-French consortium has offered to build a cell radio for the Bundespost. This is a cheap mobile telephone as efficient as the care telephone so that one person can get in touch with another at any time that suits.

This will be regarded as quite the end by those who in this Orwell Year expect the worst from technology.

Axel Schnorbus

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 April 1984)

German triumphs on the world markets

Exports in 1983 in billions of marks

Vehicles	72.5
Machinery	63.9
Chemical prod.	59.5
Elect. engineering	41.8
Food, luxuries	19.4
Iron and steel	18.0
Textiles	14.4
Iron, tin products	12.1
Non-ferrous metals	10.8
Aircraft	9.5
Office machines	8.6
Precision optics	8.1
Plastics	8.0
Petroleum products	6.1
Clothing	5.5
Farm products	5.5

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International competition: how opposition is measuring up

Trade fairs perform many functions, but they are of supreme value for measuring achievement. Every exhibitor can make comparisons with international competition.

There was much talk at this year's Hanover Fair of West Germany's poor export performance and how it is becoming less competitive.

This is bitter for a country like the Federal Republic that is poor in raw materials and therefore survives on its technical knowledge and know-how.

What makes is worse is that this idea of poor competitiveness has been bolstered by various economic research institute reports.

At the beginning of this year most of these reports had one message: The economy is marking time, is re-adjusting itself. In the markets for new technology others are well ahead of West Germany.

In view of this it is astonishing how composed many West German companies are in assessing their international competitiveness. They take confidence in the efforts to improve through new production programmes, for instance, by extending the range of goods and by exploiting new markets — all this could be seen in every nook and cranny at Hanover.

Statistics from the experts play down any pessimism.

The Federal Statistics Office in Wiesbaden has reported that the trade balance for 1983 was DM 42 billion, the third highest in the history of the Federal Republic.

The chairman of Deutsche Bank, Dr Wilfried Guth, says that a real increase of seven per cent was expected in exports this year. That is something.

The 1983 balance of payments were also satisfactory despite the world trade recession, despite a mere trickle of exports to the Opec countries, despite an inability of developing countries to import much because of their debt crises and despite a politically-motivated slowing down of imports by East Bloc countries.

Finally is should be remembered that many companies have turned to investing abroad to defend their market position and overcome trade barriers.

Taking all these factors together it can be seen that exporters are as go-getting

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

and efficient as ever. The "Made in Germany" tag is not just a tag. The fight for market shares is bound to get more heated in the future. The competition does not sleep.

In some sectors the Japanese and the Americans are making the running, in other traditional industrial sectors markets have been over-run my newcomers from the newly industrialised countries.

Energy and intelligence, innovative flair, richness in ideas are called for and will be called for where they are not offered at the present.

West Germany is under pressure in two ways. As a country with few raw materials and very dependent on exports, it must produce intelligent products for the ever-increasing competition and she has to make available outlets for the products of the newly industrialised countries.

We must be prepared to take lower quality products to find a place and a market for the products from developing countries

This means that the range of export goods produced by West Germany must alter. This raises the question as to whether it should remain on of the world's most important managing owners or whether the production of capital goods should be increased.

Consumer goods and services must be exported. They will be able to do so only when a high level of incomes and living standards are maintained.

A new structure policy must be associated with new export strategies. To overhaul structures to defend them in the long term is not good enough, when an industrialised nation wants to maintain its top position among other nations.

The basics are certainly there and we shall have to put up with the fact that new active companies will emerge that will get on in the future and release many regenerative energies.

If German industry wants to remain on the staircase going up industry must become more efficient, more innovative and invest more so as to achieve a qualitative growth.

Costs also play an important role in exports.

Shortening the working week and offering increased pay are particularly important developments for a country that earns a third of its gross national product in tough competition in export markets.

Those who forget this endanger what must be cared for at all costs — West Germany's ability to compete on international markets.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 8 April 1984)

■ THE HANOVER FAIR

India wins big contract to supply jeeps

India has agreed to deliver jeeps to the Netherlands and West Germany under contracts worth 30 million dollars.

The deal was the high point of India's presence at the Hanover Fair, the first time it has been represented in its own right as a fully fledged industrial nation.

More than 400 Indian firms offered a wide range of products, reflecting the considerable changes in the country over the past 10 years.

India can produce capital goods of the highest international standards because of its own efforts and as a result of cooperation with top international companies.

During the fair, Mr Mohammad Yunus, chairman of the Trade Fair Authority of India, said the industrialised countries must accept more finished goods from India rather than raw materials.

He said the increasing trade with the West was to India's disadvantage. This had to be stopped. India's presence at Hanover was a modest attempt to demonstrate its capacity to export industrial products.

India is the world's ninth largest in-

General-Anzeiger

dustrial nation. It has the third largest trained labour force in the world after America and Russia.

It is the sixth country in the world in the table of space and nuclear nations.

It has the largest reserves of iron ore and is the world's prime producer of sugar and cotton yarn.

Many of the products shown by Indian exhibitors at Hanover were little known in Europe. Many specialists at the fair were astonished that India, renowned for its poverty and with a very poor image in Europe as an industrialised nation, has developed so far industrially.

The 377 major Indian firms present displayed their products over an area of 15,000 square metres (161,000 sq ft) making this the largest exhibition of Indian industry outside the sub-continent.

Engineering, electro-technology, tools and machine tools, plant equipment, plant construction, traffic and transport as well as research and technology were included.

There was turn-key plant, motorised rickshaws, precision engineering and optics, furnaces and cold-rolled steel, software for electronic data processing systems, machine tools of high quality and agricultural equipment.

The Indians also displayed results of joint projects with West Germany and other countries begun in the past ten years.

The technology transfer is not a one-way street, for more than 240 joint ventures are under way abroad using Indian technology.

Mohammad Yunus, chairman of the Trade Fair Authority of India, said that the North-South trade relationships India has is not a "hangover from the colonial period" but involves new evaluations of market requirement.

Mr Yunus said: "At present our increasing trade with the West is to our disadvantage. This harms trade on both sides so we are obliged to call a halt. This is only possible if the industrialised countries are prepared to take increasing quantities of finished goods rather than raw materials."

India's exhibition "was a modest attempt to prove the country's capabilities of exporting industrial products."

Radhesyam Purohit

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 11 April 1984)

The largest single national exhibitor at Hanover was India. Here the Indian Industry Minister, Narayan Dutt Tiwari (left) looks on as Bonn Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber lights candles at the Indian stand. Partly obscured behind Mr Tiwari is Lower Saxony's Premier, Ernst Albrecht. (Photo: dpa)

400 Indian exhibitors show just what has been achieved

Indian exhibitors at this year's Hanover Fair were well satisfied.

The Trade Fair Authority of India that handled the arrangements for the 400 participants from Indian industry, warned them beforehand that there would not be a rush of on-the-spot orders. The Indian pavilion in Hall 21 was fundamentally an investment in the future, introducing India as an industrialised nation to the world at large. The point of participation was image building rather than sales. Public interest was astonishing, particularly when it is remembered just how much there is to see at Hanover. The crowds were not just the curious or the young collecting brochures, but serious businessmen

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interested in discussing in earnest joint projects or wanting to conclude some commercial agreement.

But not all the Indian exhibitors used the fair to best advantage. Financially strong organisations such as the Birlas or Modis were satisfied with displaying charts and diagrams that did not attract much public interest.

On the other hand the Tat stand, on which reportedly one million dollars was spent, exhibited a wide variety of products and was constantly crowded.

Many small or medium-sized firms, able to attend Hanover through support from the Trade Fair Authority, came up with better ideas than some of the large companies.

In future, however, all must take greater care with the translations into English of their publicity material. And some of the charts in German were ridiculous, causing sardonic laughter.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 April 1984)



This is Loewe's new integrated-circuit design. The superchip is known as Lotus and can perform the functions of about 35 standard integrated circuits, or about 80,000 transistor functions. Loewe was one of many firms represented at Hanover. (Photo: Loewe)

More visitors, more orders

Business was better at this year's Hanover Fair. In some sectors, 23 per cent more orders were placed than last year. A surprising feature was the number of visitors. Not only were there more than last year, but there were more foreigners and more specialists.

Re-awakened confidence was the earmark of West German exhibitors at this year's Hanover Fair, the world's largest industrial exhibition.

In the international centre for information technology, the market place for the very top in technological facilities, West German micro-electronic firms, often reproached for having fallen back, proved that they were as good as ever.

In this sector there was no trace of "refined' caution" among the Japanese and in particular the Americans, leaders in the field that had been evident in previous yeas.

Although final figures are not yet in it is possible to say that the 6,400 direct exhibitors at the "fair of fairs" went away satisfied that this year's event had been successful.

Many orderbooks were full to overflowing before the fair ended. And there are signs that the post-fair business will be good.

There seemed to be a new readiness to invest and it was not just a "short-lived passion." This view was taken by association officials whose job it is is to be

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

optimistic, but many firms and companies seem to have "come through the valley".

Happy faces were to be seen in the halls for information technology, engineering and in the electro-industries, where alone in February order bookings were 23 per cent up on the same month of the previous year.

The building materials industry, chemicals and information technology expects a two percentage points increase.

But despite all this euphoria there were branches of industry that had tough stories to tell, under pressure from intense competition. It was obvious to branch experts that producers of personal computers were having a difficult time despite price cutting.

The Association of West German Computer Centres takes the view that a change of structure in the branch meant that now functions have to be found. A spokesman for the association said at the fair that an extension of the traditional functions of a computer centre was not to be ruled out of court. A computer service centre would become more and more a comprehensive computer services centre.

The association plans to make an analysis of structural changes so that firms who are involved in the association can make decisions as to how they should reorient their activities.

About 30 per cent of the association's members are involved in the micro-market. About 25 per cent of them are involved in software for specific purposes, developed by the manufacturer himself. Every tenth business in the Association supplies a full service for a house system.

dpa/vwd

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 11 April 1984)

■ CIVIL RIGHTS

The continuing burden of the Jill-of-all-trades

An unusually high number of women MPs spoke during a Bundestag debate on sexual equality.

This might seem to indicate that equal rights do already exist.

However, Marie-Luise Beck-Oberdorf, of the Greens, ironically suggested that this sudden spate of women speakers was little more than window-dressing.

Neither view need accurately reflect the truth.

Politicians certainly pay attention to the issue possibly with women's votes in mind.

Nowadays no party can afford not to field a high-ranking team of speakers in a debate on sexual equality.

Some speakers used a lot of words, but didn't say much. Terms such as motherhood (seen as a vocation) and partnership, were bandied about.

Equal rights for women are laid down in Article 3 of Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution.

Ever since, politicians have sought with varying degrees of earnest and success to breathe life into this constitutional requirement by means of suitable legislation.

To this day, 36 years after the proclamation of equal rights for women, there can be no question of women truly enjoying equal rights.

Neither in society nor in politics have

Süddeutsche Zeitung

women achieved equality, and hard times still hit women harder economically than they hit men.

Jobs women cannot be equated with equal rights or emancipation, but they are certainly a prerequisite. They are also a prerequisite for the freedom to choose between a job or a family that the Bonn government advocates.

This being so, recent trends can only be called alarming. Women make up 37.6 per cent of the work force (not including mothers who would dearly like to go back to work).

But they make up 44.3 per cent of the unemployed. Two out of three young people who failed to find an apprenticeship last year were girls.

The average wage women earned was in 1981 still only 72.8 per cent of what men earned, or a mere 0.2 per cent more than six years earlier.

So the shortcomings of the past can only be said to persist, just as women's pension rights are still much lower than men's.

Equal rights for women are being gained, but only at a snail's pace. Women seldom get to the top, and often only at the price of concentrating exclusively on their career, or at least of forgoing children.

This is an old problem of discrimination, and small comfort is to be derived from occasional encouraging news such as reports that there are now two women locomotive drivers working for the German Federal Railways.

Everyone is agreed that the Federal Republic has a poor track record and much ground to make good. Where views differ is, as always, on how to set about it.

Equal rights can clearly not be enforced by legislation, especially as legal provisions, including fines imposed for discrimination, can always be circumvented.

No staff manager is going to admit that the real reason why he won't hire a woman applicant is because women keep having children and can't work overtime because they have to look after the family.

The law is probably ineffective as a means of dealing with the preconditions of inequality and the differences in social status accorded to men and women.

It all begins with education and the way in which children are prepared for their future roles in society. Men are expected to be tough, women to be yielding, the one for work, the other for the family. It will be ages before new lessons are learnt and we have grown accustomed to changes in this sphere. But that isn't to say that legislation to curb discrimination makes no sense.

The Bundestag and the government could well set an example and help to create a more favourable atmosphere for the fair sex.

It would certainly be to the credit of the present Bonn government, which has laid express claim to intellectual and moral leadership.

Conversely, measures the government plans and claims to be aimed at equality of opportunity by means of flexibility need to be checked to see whether they are not laying the groundwork for new forms of discrimination.

There can be no denying the danger that this flexibility may prove to women's disadvantage, saddling them with the dual load of looking after both a computer terminal and the home.

This twofold burden is the basis of discrimination. Women are expected to be Jills-of-all-trades: skilled workers yet wives and mothers who must also look after the children and help their husbands to get on in their careers.

There can be no solution to the problems of women as long as they are seen solely as a woman's problem.

It is time to consider how both, men and women, can best be enabled to fairly share their duties both at work and in the family.

Elisabeth Bauschmid

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 April 1984)

European court ruling blow against job bias

Handelsblatt
WIRTSCHAFTS- UND FINANZZEITUNG

A series of rulings handed down by the European Court of Justice has advanced the cause of women against job discrimination.

The court was unable to rule entirely in the favour of women. EEC guidelines did not entitle it to award them a right to the job in the event of proven sexual discrimination.

But it did make it clear that true equality of opportunity cannot be achieved without suitable sanctions and that victims of discrimination are entitled to compensation.

Compensation must be appropriate too. Symbolic damages, such as reimbursement of the cost of applying for a job, are not enough, the court says.

It arrived at its rulings after being called on to reach test decisions by labour tribunals in Hamburg and Hamm, with the result that existing sanctions must be considered inadequate.

The provisions of the German civil code will clearly need to be amended on this point.

The first case referred to the European Court of Justice was that of women social workers who applied for a job at Werl jail, Westphalia.

Werl is an all-male jail, and the two women, Sabine von Colson and Elisabeth Kamann, went to court complaining that male applicants with poorer qualifications had been given preference.

The prison authorities argued that hiring women to work in an all-male jail created problems and entailed running unnecessary risks.

The second case was that of a woman business studies graduate who has applied for a management job with a trading company.

She was turned down on sexual grounds, the firm arguing that men were preferred as negotiators of commercial contracts in the Arab world. Women managers were not accepted there.

If the three women had been entitled to no more than reimbursement of the cost of submitting their job applications, they would have stood to be awarded DM7.20 in one case and DM2.30 in the other.

The court ruled that EEC member-countries are under obligation to take appropriate action to ensure that the aim of the equal rights guideline is fulfilled.

They must ensure that victims of discrimination can refer to such action when applying to national courts for redress.

Suitable action could, for instance, be a provision requiring the employer to hire the applicant who has proved a case of discrimination.

Alternatively, an appropriate award of damages could be made, beefed up by fines if need be.

The European Community guideline does not lay down specific sanctions it is left to member-countries to select the option that appears most suitable.

Member-countries are not free to impose any sanctions they see fit. The court stipulates that the sanctions chosen must ensure actual and effective legal protection.'

They must also have a bona fide deterrent effect on the employer. If damages are awarded, they must be appropriate to the damage done.

German Social Democratic MEPs Katharina Focke and Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul in a statement on the court ruling note that it stresses the priority of Community law over German labour law.

Compensation must be appropriate to the damage suffered. The two women suggest of between six and 12 salaries.

The rules reaffirmed their view that is was time German labour law was brought into line with that of the EEC.

(Handelsblatt, 13 April 1984)

■ MOTORING

Patience wears thin: belt up or pay up, Germans warned

Only six out of 10 German motorists use their safety belts. Bonn Transport Minister Werner Dollinger says that is not enough. Appeals have not been effective and offenders now are to face a DM40 fine.

Werner Dollinger did not want to introduce fines for not wearing safety belts. He would have preferred motorists to show common sense.

In summer 1983 he and the Road Safety Association launched a publicity campaign toward which Bonn contributed DM4m.

At the end of March, when he sent the *Länder* details of the Federal government's transport policy programme, he said the campaign had still not had the required effect.

But he hoped further trends in belting up would vindicate his decision not to impose fines.

Now the Road Research Association has published the latest figures he has announced with regret that he sees no option other than to impose fines to get motorists to use safety belts.

They have been legally obliged to use them for years, but neither appeals to common sense nor warnings that fines might prove inevitable have succeeded in boosting the percentage of belt-users.

Motorists are not belting up any more often than they did last year or the year before, which everyone agrees is unsatisfactory.

There have been improvements over the past decade. In 1974 only 14.5 per cent of motorists belted up on trunk roads and autobahns.

In commuter and rush-hour traffic the percentage was 14.2, in built-up areas a mere 8.7.

By 1979 roughly 85 per cent of drivers were belting up on autobahns, 67 per cent on country roads and 45 per cent in town.

The Road Research Association in Cologne said the average figure was 59 per cent. It hasn't improved. The latest average is a mere 58 per cent.

That is indeed a surprising figure given that belts are acknowledged to be the No. 1 life-saver in car crashes.

In 1979 an estimated 2,300 car drivers and front-seat passengers were saved from death on the road by wearing safety belts, while 24,000 would otherwise have been seriously injured.

One per cent more who belt up means 40 fewer road deaths a year, it was said. This claim is now echoed by the Transport Ministry.

If the average percentage of belt-users were increased from 58 to 83 that would mean 1,000 road deaths fewer per year.

Figures such as these have levelled with increasing urgency at Herr Dollinger by critics who favour no further delay in imposing fines on motorists who don't belt up.

They also noted that the number of road deaths was up again last year for the first time in years. The increase might only have been 0.8 per cent, but 11,701 deaths is a chilling figure.

Reference was made to the cost in other terms, such as medical care and time off work. The Cologne research establishment has estimated the cost to the economy at nearly DM2bn a year.

That is merely the cost of not belting up, so each extra per cent represents a gain of DM50m for the economy.

Since the early 1970s experts, motoring organisations, road safety associations and the Bonn government have sought to popularise the belt.

In 1974 and 1975 the Bonn Transport Ministry invested DM13m in advertising. By January 1976 81 per cent of cars had front-seat belts fitted, and 62 per cent of drivers used them.

This is a figure that was never again reached, let alone improved on, even though the Ministry invested a further DM3m in advertising in 1976 and 1977.

Developments were influenced in part by regulations. In 1974 belts were made compulsory in all new cars, and by 1976 many old cars had to be equipped with them too.

Since May 1979 all new cars have had to have belts fitted to all seats.

Since 1976 both driver and co-driver have been required to use them, but so far neither have faced direct consequences if they haven't bothered.

But courts have ruled that motorists who sue for damages are partly to blame for injuries suffered in crashes when they weren't wearing safety belts.

The general ruling is now that they were 30-per-cent to blame, even if the other party may have been 100-per-cent responsible for the accident.

Another consequence can be even more drastic. If the injured motorist, guiltless but beltless, is off work as a result of the crash he is not entitled to sickness benefit.

That means no pay even though he wasn't to blame for the accident.

Yet many motorists have still refused to take the hint. Belting up may be inconvenient. They may also overestimate their own ability.

If you crash into a tree at 30 km/h, or 20 mph, you need to hold back 20 times your own body weight to avoid being catapulted against the windscreen.

Impact at 50 km/h, or 30 mph, is equivalent to jumping out of a fourth-storey window. At 80 km/h, or 50 mph, it is equivalent to falling from a height of 25 metres.

Former Formula 1 world champion Emerson Fittipaldi says he always wears his safety belt, even in town.

But many motorists are reluctant to follow suit even though belts are particularly effective at relatively low speeds.

So fines were the only option still left, especially in view of reports from abroad.

In Switzerland, for instance, belting up improved from 31 to 81 per cent in built-up areas after fines were introduced. Out of town the percentage improved from 49 to 89.

In Norway the increase was from 45 to 70 and from 80 to 90 per cent. Fines make a legal requirement seem less like a mere recommendation.

Hans-J. Mahnke

(Die Welt, 4 April 1984)

'Accident gang' insurance fraud costs millions

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Third-party insurance claim-rigging is costing motor insurers millions. The ordinary motorist might never know, but insurers do, and they are worried.

The unsuspecting motorist wants to overtake another car, let us say, and is looking to see whether he can change lane.

The other driver indicates with a friendly wave of the hand that he can go ahead. He does. Then there is a crash. No-one is hurt. Just a hefty insurance claim.

Bad luck? No. The friendly motorist belongs to a gang that rigs car crashes in this way to defraud the insurance.

There are over 100 motor insurers who belong to the German Motor Insurers' Association (HUK). All report serious trouble in this connection.

In 11 full-scale proceedings in various parts of the country the public prosecutor is probing over 300 people suspected of having rigged crashes to make fraudulent claims totalling DM20m.

They are, as a rule, accidents in which drivers overtaking on trunk roads and autobahns collide sideways with more expensive cars.

Allianz, a leading insurer, says thousands of unsuspecting motorists are the victims of accident "gangs" every year.

Their insurance companies have to pay the cost of repairing the expensive car. They forfeit their no-claims bonus and have to pay higher premiums.

Alois Deichl, head of third-party motor insurance claims at Allianz, explains how a typical rigged accident happens.

One gang member drives an up-market brand of car on the overtaking lane. He waits until the fall guy wants to overtake from the centre lane.

He then brakes to create the impression that the fall guy can change lane, but when he does, a quick burst of speed is all that is needed to ensure a smash.

An accomplice driving in the car behind has a camera at the ready to take a telltale snapshot of the crash.

The unsuspecting victim is often so upset by the sight of the damage he has done to the expensive car that he immediately signs an admission of guilt.

The thought never enters his head that the damaged car is used for similiar accidents regularly, often several times a week.

It is already in poor shape and has been given a makeshift repair with a little panel-beating and a quick coat of paint.

The expensive car is then taken to a prearranged garage where the repair bill is heavy and includes, say, a new door and sections of bodywork.

Motor insurers are now working on a computer file of suspected claim riggers. It lists 142,853 motorists, assessors and garages with a record of doubtful claims.

A second file lists 6,057 people who have already been convicted for offences of this kind. Last year 650 claims were referred to this file, and in 10 per cent of cases the claimants had a "record."

Albert Bechtold

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 6 April 1984)

■ THE CINEMA

Author says film makers devalued his book

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Toward the end of Wolfgang Petersen's screen version of Michael Ende's *Never-Ending Story* there are increasingly frequent switches between the world of the Childlike Empress and that of Bastian Balthasar Bux.

The face of the ruler of Fantasia shows growing signs of fear, while Bastian's shows growing signs of consternation and bewilderment.

The golden-eyed mistress of all desires and the ordinary schoolboy are attracted to each other as if by magic, and in the wake of this mutual attraction Bastian finally realises what he long refused to believe.

The mysterious book he stole from the second-hand bookshop run by the strange Mr Koreander and started to read in the school attic is partly, not to say mainly, about *him*.

He himself is the hero of the *Never-Ending Story*. It is for him to give the Childlike Empress the new name for which she longs.

So he plucks up all his courage and says the name that is her salvation: Moon Child.

Thereafter nothing is ever the same again. Bastian, a schoolboy played pranks on by his classmates, is chosen to prevent the demise of fantasy and to recreate the land of fantasy, myth, fairy tales, wishes and dreams.

The strange adventures, temptations and trials that befall him are the second part of the *Never-Ending Story*. It remains to be seen whether it too will ever be filmed.

The producers of the present film are fairly sure it will, but Michael Ende, who wrote the novel and is unhappy with the film, plans to oppose the idea.

A heavy toll

The DM60m screen version has finally been released. Making it has claimed a heavy toll in terms of cash, material, screenplay, hard work and nerves, especially Ende's nerves.

His *Never-Ending Story* has been translated into 27 languages and proved a world bestseller.

He was happy to lend his name to the film version as long as he could still hope the film would closely follow the book.

But in this respect he must be considered to have been somewhat naive, especially as he is no stranger to the film world.

Now he has seen the result, in Technicolor and Dolby Stereo, to the accompaniment of music by Klaus Doldinger, he is no longer so keen to associate himself with the venture.

The film version, he alliterates, is a gigantic melodrama of commerce and kitsch, of plush and plastic.

The ivory tower to which the childlike Empress withdraws sick at the impending demise of her empire is, he says, presented in the film like a night club where the dancing girls might be expected to appear at any moment.

The passage in which the sphinxes appear is an utter disaster. In the book the sphinxes' eyes contain all the mysteries of the world. In the film they merely flash laser beams, he says.

There is some truth in these allegations, those who know and love the book will agree, although not as much as the author claims.

Only an extremely Reaganised contemporary is likely to accept lasers as a substitute for a bid to solve the world's mysteries.

The nothing into which fantasies and their creations vanish as in a metaphysical nuclear explosion resemble in Petersen's film a group of comet fragments that demolish the ivory tower.

Superficial

It is a depressingly superficial illustration of what Ende meant to be the deeper meaning of the book.

Yet how else was one to portray on film the mysteries of the world gleaming in a sphinx's eyes, yet alone a void that destroys eyes, souls and matter?

There is no answer to this question, which is as much as to say that some of the mistakes of which the film can be accused were inevitable and could only have been replaced by others.

But one sequence seriously distorts the meaning of the book. It is a know-all, banal screenplay addition. When Bastian crosses the border into Fantasia he is said by Ende to undergo an act of spiritual self-discovery, a kind of Zen self-dedication. That is how it is described in the book, at least as far as Ende is concerned and anyone who has read it will be bound to agree. The screenplay writers are guilty of a serious error of judgement. The boy who is now set to rescue the land of fantasy can think of nothing better than to mount the lucky dragon Fuchur and chase his tiresome classmates into the same dustbin they put him in at the beginning of the film.

This scene totally falsifies both the figure and its intention for the sake of a cheap point.

Yet care must be taken not to rap Petersen's film with Ende's book. There would be nothing to be gained by this approach. The book is the book, the film something totally different, and, all in all, by no means bad.

Where film technique and delusion are concerned, it stands comparison with other fantasy products from Hollywood.

Barret Oliver, Noah Hathaway and Tami Stronach may not be ideally suited for their crucial parts as the Bastian,

Continued on page 11



Triumphant moment for director Wolfgang Petersen after the premiere in Munich of 'Never-Ending Story,' based on Michael Ende's book. Sharing the moment are child stars Barret Oliver and Tami Stronach. (Photo: ...)

"We could probably do really good business with a paperback edition right now," says a Munich bookseller on a note of regret.

He is referring to Michael Ende's *Never-Ending Story*, which in German is still available only in the original hard cover edition.

A paperback version would doubtless have enabled the book trade to profit from the publicity surrounding the release of the film.

But the author and his publishers will have nothing to do with the film. Michael Ende has described it as a gigantic melodrama of kitsch, commerce, plush and plastic.

Günter Ehni of the book's Stuttgart publishers, K. Thienemanns Verlag, does not expect the film to result in higher sales of the book.



Michael Ende . . . unhappy with film version. (Photo: Archiv K. Thienemanns Verlag)

Screen version of best-seller means profits

Frankfurter Allgemeine ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

Sales have improved lately, but he feels this is due to the Easter trade. The publicity created by a film version must not be overestimated in the effect it has on sales of a book.

Regardless whether the film is screened with a mention of the author's name, many booksellers intend to have the book on show in their windows and enough copies in stock for the film's release.

And although the writer and his publisher may not be happy with the film, they will certainly profit from it. The seventeenth printing has taken sales of the hard cover edition to over one million, and it is sure not to be the last.

Initially, Ende had no misgivings. He sold the film rights in 1980. He and his publisher were each paid DM150,000.

The author now seems to regret having sold the film rights outright. He had very little influence on the form the film took, especially in the final stage.

The greatest influence will have been exercised by producer Bernd Eichinger of Neue Constantin Film GmbH, Munich.

This is not to cast aspersions on the work of either director Wolfgang Petersen or screenplay writer Hermann Weigel. It is merely that Eichinger as managing partner of Constantin determined the final shape of the film regardless of what Ende had in mind.

His aim was to ensure it was a commercial success, which is hardly surprising as the film seems likely to have cost over DM60m to produce.

But the financial risk is widely shared, Eichinger says. Neue Constantin has a financial commitment of a mere DM10m or so.

About DM45m is guaranteed by foreign screen rights, sold to distributors in the various countries before shooting of the film was over.

Eichinger's risk was much higher before these terms were agreed. He had invested over DM15m in the film rights, the screenplay, the first film footage and other preliminaries before he was able to negotiate terms with distributors.

The producer expects about three million people to see the film in German cinemas. At an average price of DM8 per ticket the film is expected to gross DM24m at German box offices.

Cinema proprietors will take roughly half, with a further quarter going to the German distributor, which happens to be a Constantin subsidiary.

So Constantin stands to earn between DM6m and DM8m. The film is bound to gross more than its guarantees abroad too.

The financial risk is also shared by Bavaria Studios, Munich, where the film was shot, and the Bavarian Economic Affairs Ministry.

Their commitment is DM5m and DM4m respectively, Eichinger say.

Stefan Jedele

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 6 April 1984)

■ EXHIBITIONS

North Rhine-Westphalia puts new expression on an old face

Handelsblatt WIRTSCHAFTS- UND FINANZZEITUNG

Exhibitions dealing with art from 1900 to 1914 in six cities in the industrialised area of western Germany contribute considerably to an understanding of the quality and range of culture in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The exhibitions are part of a North Rhine-Westphalia Education Ministry project. Düsseldorf, Essen, Hagen, Cologne, Krefeld and Wuppertal are taking part.

Both local history and the encouragement to cultural life given by the banker and patron of the arts, Karl Ernst Osthaus (1874—1921), are prominent.

Osthaus involved himself in a movement for reform after the manner of William Morris (1834—1896). He wanted everyone to experience artistic renewal from a fusion of art and the products of industry.

The Folkwang Museum idea came from Osthaus, a modern museum with an art school attached concerned with many artistic disciplines. At the beginning of the 1920s the Museum was moved from Hagen to Essen.

At the international exhibition of 1889 in Paris German products won themselves a reputation for being synonymous with horrible design. This caused a reaction to set in so that industry in the Rhine-Ruhr region and in Westphalia wanted to see a reform movement come into being.

This meant that every creative idea of any importance was taken up to by used by industry, then at the height of the industrial and technical revolution, so that German industrial products could win for themselves a leading position on international markets.

The ideas man in the industrial Ruhr and Rhine was a Belgian architect Henry van de Velde — his name recurs time and time again. But there were others who played an important role, such as the director of the Düsseldorf arts and crafts school, Peter Behrens, as well as Bruno Taut, Jan Thorn-Prikker, Josef Hoffmann, Richard Riemerschmid and Josef Maria Olbricht. And later Walter Gropius, originator of the Bauhaus school of art.

The idea for rehabilitating the industrial regions in the west of the country came from the Folkwang Museum in Essen.

The Wuppertal-based Secretariat for joint cultural activities in the cities of North-Rhine Westphalia coordinated the exhibitions. The Krupp Foundation in Essen paid for the opulent exhibitions catalogue.

The excellently produced catalogues will for a long time give testimony that west German art and culture before the First World War was not only equal to but better in many ways particularly to the narcissims of Berlin.

The centre of the Essen exhibition is the Margarethenhöhe, a housing development founded by Margarethe Krupp and built by the architect Georg Metzendorf in 1909.

British example

The development was designed for Krupp workers and staff members after the style of the British garden cities with its own infrastructure and landscaping.

The old model has had to be carefully restored for this exhibition. The conference table, seating and a glass cupboard are originals from the Krupp conference room of the time.

Another interesting feature of the Essen exhibition is a competition organised by Krupp of Düsseldorf for the design and furnishing of a worker's home dating from 1901. The whole was to be supplied at the price of 800 Goldmarks, but it did not succeed because it was too dear.

Against this was an imaginary home thought up by Henry van de Velde with pictures by Nolde, Hodler and Kirchner and sculpture from Kolbe or Lehmbruck.

The Düsseldorf exhibition suffers from the miserable rooms in which it is mounted. It concentrates on the Sonderbund exhibitions of 1909 and 1910. The items on display were very similar to the items shown in Herwarth Walden's Berlin gallery, Der Sturm. Representatives from the French avant garde were invited to take in these exhibitions along with the breakaway Sonderbund sessionists. They had for the most part studied at the Düsseldorf art school and were indebted in many ways to the Düsseldorf school of the nineteenth century. The avant garde artists invited to to exhibit with the Sonderbund included Picasso, van Gogh, Pechstein, Nolde, Pissaro, Signac, Renoir, Sisley, Vlaminck, Kandinsky and Jawlensky.

The reconstruction of former Sonderbund exhibitions gives a fresh, pleasant impression of what avant garde art of this period really meant.

The Düsseldorf exhibition also includes many items produced by students from the arts and crafts school under Peter Behrens.

The Cologne Art Society placed emphasis on the reconstruction of the legendary Werkbund-Ausstellung Cöln 1914. More than 600 items have been loaned from 100 collectors.

On a site covering 350,000 square metres at the Rhine village of Deutz 120 building projects went on display on 16 May 1914 to propagate the new, comprehensive aesthetic in art.

Before this exhibition had to close because of the outbreak of the First World War it was visited by a million. Henry van de Velde had a monumental theatre in this exhibition and Gropius had a factory with an administrative building.

An eye-catching item in the Cologne exhibition is the presentation of a shop window display. On show are textiles, furniture, cutlery and ceramics.

Cologne exhibition director Wulf Herzogenrath, however, did not limit himself to the reconstruction of a legendary exhibition from the past alone.

He tried to show contrasts and as a consequence underlined th fact that the reform movement at the beginning of the century was only half-hearted.

Zeal to enlighten

New industrial products remained more or less in line with classicism — from the Gothic via Renaissance to Biedermeier — and linked to a newly awakened feeling for folk art.

The Krefeld exhibition shows clearly just how far the zeal to enlighten the worker masses in the industrial regions of the Ruhr and the Rhine went.

Here the German Museum for Art in Trade and Industry was re-discovered. Karl Ernst Osthaus originally conceived this mobile exhibition as a means of altering taste. Eventually it became the Kaiser-Wilhelm Museum in Krefeld, founded as an arts and crafts museum by Friedrich Deneken.

At Krefeld it is possible to see all the idealistic components of art and culture in western Germany before the First World War — there are the Japanese woodcuts that were produced for commercial art; from the same section the industrial photographs from Walter Gropius and the detailed Josef Hoffmann photographic collection from the Palais Stocklet in Brussels and the company advertising devised by Peter Behrens.

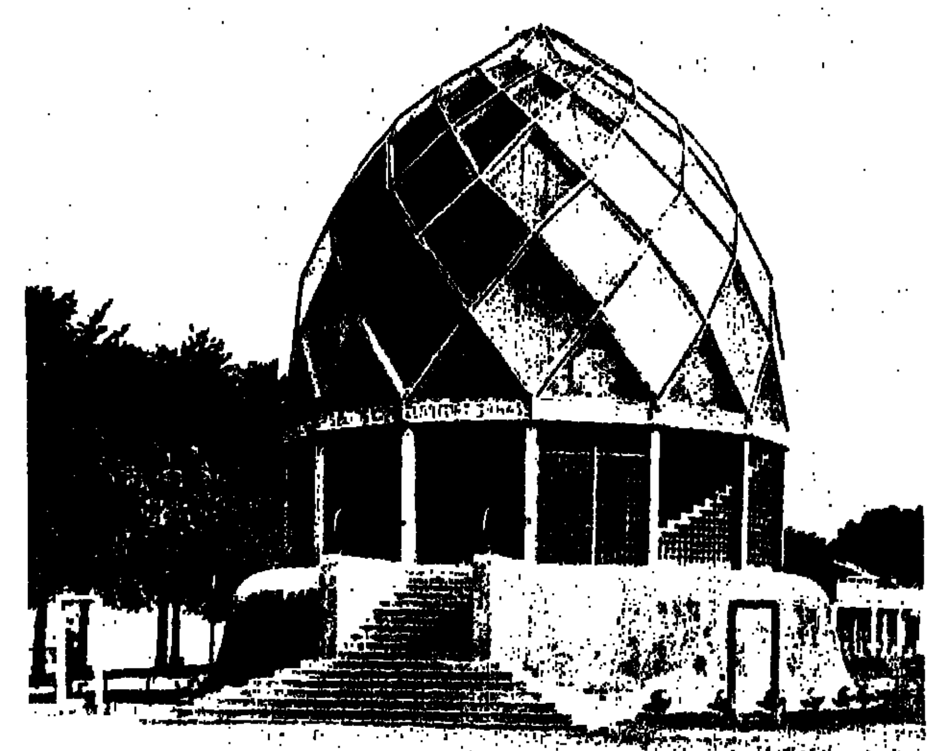
Industrialisation abruptly led Western Europe into a new epoch. Artists of the time were firmly convinced that with the new times a new aesthetic was essential.

Klaus U. Reinke

(Handelsblatt, 6 April 1984)



The first Picasso to be shown in Germany, 'Acrobat and young Harlequin,' (1905) was with the Sonderbund exhibition in the first decade this century. (Photo: Von der Heydt-Museum, Wuppertal)



The glasshouse designed by Bruno Taut originally shown in the Werkbund Ausstellung in Cologne in 1914. It is still to be seen on the site. (Photo: Kolnischer Kunstverein)

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Atréju and Childlike Empress of the book but they are still very well cast.

The computerised cliff-biter, the lucky dragon, the racing snail, the werewolf and several other fabulous creatures from Fantasia are technically superb.

At least for part of the distance they help to sustain the magic and excitement viewers aged between five and 75 surely want to experience.

The film version, rapped by Ende as a "super effects show along American marketing lines," still retains enough of the Never-Ending Story's deeper meaning to make film-goers sit up and think.

If that isn't enough, then read the book. But the film will go its own way and probably recoup its cost.

Hellmut Kotschenreuther

(Der Tagesspiegel, 6 April 1984)

■ MODERN LIVING

Fishermen rushed to hospital after netting a haul of war-time mustard gas

DIE ZEIT

Danish fishermen in the Baltic have netted a lethal reminder of the Third Reich. A gel that came up with the nets turned out to be mustard gas.

Seven men were rushed to a Copenhagen clinic with serious facial and body burns.

The gel had leaked from German mustard gas shells dumped on the seabed at the end of the war.

The trawler *Heldarf Tendur* was fishing off the Swedish island of Gotland. Its crew had to send out a mayday call because their eye injuries were so bad they could no longer keep the ship on course.

They were given first aid on Gotland and flown to Copenhagen on board Swedish naval helicopters.

The diagnosis was prompt: mustard gas poisoning. The victims will be spending at least another fortnight in hospital.

After the war over 50,000 tons of German poison gas (Tabun, Phosgen and Lost) were dumped in the Baltic off Gotland and Bornholm by order of the Allies.

In the southern approaches to the Belt, not far from Flensburg, gas grenades and enormous quantities of conventional Wehrmacht ammunition were dumped out at sea in 1945.

In July 1947 the Allies ended the operation by dumping a final load of several thousand tons of bombs, shells and poison gas drums in the Baltic east of Bornholm.

This lethal legacy has since lain on the seabed: a chemical time-bomb ticking away relentlessly.

Since the late 1960s there has been an increasing number of poison gas accidents at sea.

The areas where ammunition was jettisoned are marked in sea charts as such. Fishing there is prohibited. But fishermen, especially those unfamiliar with these areas, have repeatedly come up against mustard gas.

Off Bornholm fishermen who turn a blind eye to the ban or hope to pull in a particularly heavy haul in prohibited areas have been known to find traces of gas or even leaking drums in their nets.

The Danish military authorities have kept count of accidents. There have been well over 100.

Heinz Christoph, a fisherman from Heikendorf, near Kiel, was one of the victims. The bomb fragment he found in his net in summer 1969 didn't look at all dangerous.

It was, he said, like a dented jam tin. But it contained an oily substance smelling of mustard and garlic that clung to his net and disfigured his hands.

He was under doctor's order for nearly a year. Trawlers are increasingly coming up against traces of mustard gas and old ammunition.

Since the New Year fishermen off Bornholm have found parts of poison gas canisters in their nets over 30 times, or three times more often than in the same period last year.

The Danish Navy looks after the finds on Bornholm, but its storage capacity is exhausted.

Corroded casings

Corrosion and sand dunes have destroyed the thin metal casing of many gas canisters. Their contents are spread across the seabed by the current, so there is a growing risk of mustard gas being caught in nets outside the danger zones.

So Danish Environment Minister Christian Christensen now plans to check whether the gas can be cleared. It would certainly be both risky and expensive.

"The Danes face a serious problem," explains Hermann Martens, a poison gas expert at the Bundeswehr department in Munster that deals with precautions against atomic, biological and chemical warfare.

"The Lost dumped off Bornholm and Gotland," he says, "is the viscous variety that was mixed with way and synthetic materials and doesn't easily dissolve in water.

"If it leaks from its canisters it will stick to sand, forming lumps that look like harmless lumps of clay. But if they break up, the contents are immediately active.

"These lumps of lethal material may still have a devastating effect in a century's time. Recovering them is dangerous, storing them extremely expensive."

German authorities have also had trouble with this toxic legacy. In summer 1970 the Bonn Transport Ministry drew attention to previously unknown finds of poison gas off Flensburg.

These reports seriously worried holidaymakers on the Baltic coast of Schleswig-Holstein. Nineteen holiday-makers underwent hospital checks for suspected poison gas contamination.

None was found to be really suffering from mustard gas poisoning or anything of the kind, but the Ministry ordered a check of the area, which is outside German territorial waters.

After two years' work the commission gave the all-clear. The contents of the grenades, Phosgen and Tabun, were immediately deactivated in seawater, it was claimed.

"Leaving the stuff where it is is the lesser evil," a spokesman concluded.

There is no all-clear for the Bornholm fishermen. When they take in their nets they must be extremely careful. The consequences of a slip could be disastrous. They are the victims of a belated battle.

Gregor Timmer

(Die Zeit, 8 April 1984)

Homes evacuated as 10-mile-long suspected ammo dump is checked

Hannoversche Allgemeine

British wartime aerial photographs have been used to trace the path of an anti-tank ditch running through the southern suburbs of West Berlin.

The ditch has long been filled in but it is suspected of having been used to bury ammunition. People have been evacuated from their homes in various parts following reports of suspected dumps. There has been at least one explosion.

About 100 buildings now straddle the 15 kilometre ditch. Many are apartment blocks several storeys high. Tenants are having to evacuate their homes for days or weeks while a closer look is taken at the foundations.

The ditch is four and a half metres deep and runs through four suburbs. Reports of old ammunition stocks were made by the public early last year.

They came in mainly in Rudow, where an estate of 667 apartments is under construction. But initially the authorities didn't take them seriously.

Action wasn't taken until 130kg of ammunition was found near the construction site. It included field gun and mortar shells, rusty carbines, hand grenades, rocket launchers and a 15-litre can of phosphorus.

Work on two apartment blocks totalling 22 flats was called to a halt while the authorities requested British government assistance.

Britain has a stockpile of five million wartime aerial photographs. The archives are stored near London and were classified until 1980.

About 500 photos are relevant, and 200 were found to indicate exactly where the anti-tank ditch was.

Berliners have been more sensitive about finds of ammunition since a 250kg bomb blew up in Buckow last July. No-one was hurt, but the damage went into seven figures.

Over 60 reports then came in of suspected ammunition dumps.

But bomb disposal experts say buried ammunition is dangerous even when it just lies buried and is not shaken in any way.

By a process of underground disintegration an ignition chain can be set in motion that eventually leads to an explosion.

In view of the Buckow blast the bomb disposal squad's budget was increased from DM2.5m to DM5m this year, but the latest finds make it seem unlikely that will be enough.

The borough surveyor's department hopes to get the amount increased to DM10m in a supplementary budget.

The search will concentrate on Tiergarten in the city centre, where there was a main line of defence in the final days of the war as the Russians marched into Berlin.

The Tiergarten is a park and will be systematically checked. About 40,000 of its 235,000 square metres (59 acres) have been probed so far.

The search is being conducted like an archaeological dig, taking care not to destroy roots. Finds have included a 100kg bomb and grenades 21cm and 28cm in diameter.

The authorities say there is no need for panic in connection with the houses that straddle the anti-tank ditch in the south of the city.

It is not as though residents were living on top of a powder keg. Dangerous finds are unlikely to be unearthed.

Building sites were checked for buried bombs and ammunition when the houses were built. But bomb disposal squads used detectors only capable of finding metal down to a depth of 30cm (1ft) under ground.

Today's metal detectors are much more sensitive, spotting metals at depths of up to six metres, or 20ft.

Roughly 1,700 bombs and well over one million shells and smaller items of ammunition have been found and defused in Berlin since 1947.

Their combined weight totalled four million kilograms.

Between 1950 and 1964 there were 18 deaths in connection with wartime aummunition, including a bomb disposal squad man who was killed in 1957 by a 15cm Russian shell he was trying to defuse.

There is a memorial to him on the site in the Grunewald forest where bombs and shells are defused.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 6 April 1984)

A munitions expert and dog check a section of the filled-in anti-tank ditch in the Berlin suburb of Rudow. The wooden tower at left in the background has no military significance. It is part of a children's play area.

(Photo: dpa)





■ MEDICINE

Hair-dye link with cancer gets short shrift

Women who regularly dye their hair need not worry about getting cancer because of it, says a survey.

The institute for social medicine and epidemiology of the Federal health authority in Berlin has studied the available literature on the subject and questioned about 700 hairdressers in Berlin.

They conclude that it is just as difficult as it always has been to pin the blame for increasing rates of cancer on particular chemicals.

In the middle of the 1970's evidence came to light that certain hair dyes contained carcinogens. Bacterial tests showed that of 169 preparations in common use, 150 provoked genetic changes.

Tests were made with animals and tumours grew after four hair dye ingredients were fed to them.

However, this was not conclusive evidence. For a start, large doses were used in the animals tests.

Women who dye their hair usually do so every three or four weeks and tests have shown that only a small amount is taken in through the skin.

But their dressers who regularly use hair dyes could increase the risk to themselves.

From the toxicological angle, the cancer risk from hair dye is extraordinarily slight. More precise elucidations could certainly come from epidemiological studies. Two questions must be asked.

One is whether hairdressers and cosmetic workers who professionally handle hair dye have a higher incidence of cancer than comparable groups which are not so exposed.

The other is if, under clinically controlled conditions, it can be checked if patients with malignant alterations of certain organs have had more contact with hair dye as those without carcinosis.

This latest study shows no clear connection between hair dye and cancer.

But an increase in deaths from breast and womb cancers has been noted



among women hairdressers in Britain and Denmark.

Because male hairdressers are unaffected, the suspicion was that this was because women dyed their customers' hair more often than their male colleagues dyed their customers'.

But the Berlin study does not support this. It concludes that there are other grounds, possibly an increase in smoking among women hairdressers.

Still, the fact should not be overlooked that almost 80 per cent of the women hairdressers questioned had regularly dyed hair since the beginning of their training, an average of 12.5 years in the survey. The influence of hair dyes on cancer has also been the subject of case studies. Especially under scrutiny has been breast cancer. World-wide investigation has produced nothing convincing. Only in one case in five was a significantly increased risk of cancer found among women who had dyed their hair for at least 10 years. In another study, a greater risk was found to exist among women who had already had a benign breast illness. All other available informatin about the cancer risk with other organs after the use of hair dye are, according to the Berlin study,unsatisfactory because the respective authors had not taken enough notice of other risk factors. The connection between hair dye material and cancers must be subject to further research before any generally valid conclusions can be drawn. Compared with other known cancer risk factors such as cigarette smoking, the increase in risk through substances contained in hair dye is only slight.

The relative risk, according to published information, is between 1.5 and 4.5 units for hair dye and between 10 and 40 for cigarettes.

In the light of the information available, the Berlin study concludes that there is no cancer risk because of the professional use of hair dyes.

As long as no new evidence came to light, no further research was necessary, said the report.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 6 April 1984)



Story with twist in the tale

Measuring of the human back through photogrammetry (the science of making reliable measurements by the use of photographs. It is widely used with aerial photography for surveying) can help doctors better detect curvature of the spine. A process has been developed at the orthopaedic clinic at Münster university hospital. Lines are projected on to the back. A video camera takes pictures and feeds them into a computer. From there information is provided regardless of the position of the patient's body. The resultant plan produced by the computer shows up irregularities much better than X rays.

(Photo: Universität Münster)

New process to detect tumours early

WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE

A new process to detect cancer earlier through measurements of genes in the cell nucleus has been developed by Professor Alfred Böcking at the Aachen University clinic.

Pathologists say that most malignant tumours have an abnormally high level of deoxyribonucleic acids (DNA), which are the gene carriers.

Whether a cell is malignant or benign is can be established by quantitative changes in the genes.

The diagnosis apparatus comprises a microscope controlled by computer, a television camera and a picture analysis system.

The cell is marked on the screen with a light stylus and the amount of DNA in the nucleus is automatically measured.

Böcking says the process can detect cancer of, for example, the lung, womb or voice box a year earlier than conventional systems.

The measured data is analysed by a computer program developed by Böcking together with Dr Wolfgang Auffermann. The diagnosis is printed out.

Böcking estimates the cost of using the DM 100,000 system at about 50 marks a time.

It has been operating in Aachen for six months and in that time has distinguished 258 malignant tumours and 74 benign ones. It has made no mistakes.

dpa

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 5 April 1984)

Too much sugar, too much fat, too much salt

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Germans eat too much sugar, too much fat and too much salt. They eat, simply, too much.

Almost everybody knows this, but few do much about it. The German Society for Nutrition has been campaigning for almost 30 years to change the bad eating habits of the Germans. Their campaign has not been all in vain, but neither has it been very successful, according to Karl Schneider, Agriculture Minister in the State of Hesse.

He told leading members of the society that 35 per cent of the German population was too fat and that in his own Land of Hesse, more than 40 per cent were overweight.

Schneider said that the war generation had only too clear recollections of the hungry years after the war. But the more the country was built up after the war, the greater the incidence of illnesses such as diabetes, gout and circulatory diseases.

Since 1952, circulation disturbances of the brain arteries have increased 46 per cent; diabetes by 61 per cent; and cirrhosis of the liver 168 per cent.

In 1982, 132,000 people died suddenly from heart trouble. High blood pressure, smoking and high levels of cholesterol in the blood are widely known as risk factors. The number of very young smokers graphically illustrates the point that people are venturesome when it comes to taking risks with luxury items whose damaging effects are not immediate.

Consumption of meat grew from 36 kilogramms to 90 kilogramms per head per year between 1950 and 1980. Consumption of fat and sugar has also sharply increased.

Consumption of bread rich in roughage and vitamin-rich carbohydrates has dropped from 87 to 63 kilos per head a year over the same period. Potato consumption has gone down from 186 to 73 kilos a year. Less milk is drunk but more cream and cheese is consumed.

It is not surprising that people eat badly despite what they know. Eating is very much of a habit, and people find it difficult to stop doing something they are used to.

The president of the society, Professor Menden, from Giessen, illustrated the point about how familiar taste can govern eating habits.

An American family always drank pinapple and apple juice out of a tin. They moved to another part of America where more fresh fruit was available. The fresh pineapple and orange revolted the children because there was no metallic taste.

Chain smokers are often among those who complain loudly about dirty air caused by cars and power stations, and who overeat and when they feel unwell blame harmful substances in the food.

Schneider said that bad eating habits and bad choices of food caused more damage than chemical residue and harmful substances.

But he didn't want to minimise the effects of harmful substances. There was no recipe for a healthy life that could be handed out.

There was a round of spontaneous applause when he criticised the fact that children learnt at school how a motor works but too little about the body's nutrition system.

Professor Menden attacked alternative circles which were unreasonably concerned about poisons in food and chemicals in the cooking pot. He also took at task the wonder diets that are now available.

Many younger people accepted uncritically ridiculous nutritional advice. This could well because of a lack of attention paid to it at school.

The conventional nutritional advice found it difficult to compete with the diet revolution. One reason could be that traditional diets were more difficult to follow, he said.

It was no wonder that irresponsible and unsustainable diets were accepted enthusiastically. Most of these diet books began with thank you letters from grateful customers.

Like with all diets, people watched their weight and felt better at the start. But the disadvantages of a bad diet only became apparent after a longer time, said Menden.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 April 1984)

■ LEISURE

My goodness, Guinness, it's the longest, tallest, fastest!

Two young people have just set up a world record in Hanover by playing table tennis non-stop for 167 hours, one hour short of a week.

On the day their ping-pong marathon drew to a close another Hanover record staff broke his own record for balancing on a pushbike.

His old record was 11 hours. He improved it to 22 hours, 22 minutes, 22 seconds spent staying put on a stationary bicycle without putting his foot down on the ground.

On the same day there was a radio report of a third bid to beat the world endurance record for playing Tipp-Kick, a soccer board game in which players are flicked like marbles.

Germans seem to have gone absolutely over board in attempts to set up or



beat zany records. A few years ago the Guinness Book of Records was regarded as a curiosity. Last year the German edition sold one million copies.

At present the German publishers are sent about 50 submissions a month for new entries, and the records claimed are for the oddest achievements.

Constructing the world's smallest toothbrush or baking the world's smallest apple strudel may or may not make sense. But what is one to say of standing on one leg like a stork for hours or days on end, or of perching on top of a pole, which is arguably more photogenic?

Why have Germans suddenly taken a fancy to eccentric records that used to be a British speciality? The desire to show off is clearly a major contributory factor.

Record buffs are obviously keen to see their names in print or mentioned on TV. That is a powerful incentive.

Some spend months or years in bids to qualify for US-style quiz programmes in which they can gain a brief but undeniable notoriety.

But the desire to show off cannot be the only reason why young people try their luck, and risk their health, when not a cent is at stake.

The Hanover table tennis record-holders are 23 and 24. Both are unemployed, which in its way is an indispensable prerequisite.

How else could they have found the time for their almost suicidal record bid, let alone the training sessions beforehand?

They can certainly be said to have given their lives a brief meaning when unemployment gives life little meaning and less fun.

The urge to play must somehow be related to our relationship with work. You only have time to take a hobby to such an extreme when you have more spare time, either after work, during the holidays or while out of work.

Yet is it not true, conversely, that work no longer presents the challenge many people still unconsciously seek?

For years there have been complaints that the Germans are steadily less keen to set up records at work. They suddenly seem intent on setting up Guinness records — a step in another direction.

The quest for achievement is suddenly aimed not at profit or material gain but at something as old-fashioned as prestige.

Executives may be wondering how this misguided ambition can be harnessed to economic considerations, but it isn't all that easy to make a record-holder at work out of a record-holder at play.

This transfer of the desire for achievement to the sidelines of life is due in part to the transformation of work itself.

The craftsman used to devote his entire attention and ambition to work in progress, such as finishing a piece of furniture, a wrought-iron fence or a stucco ceiling ornament.

He had no need of a record to prove to himself how good he was. But how are the overwhelming majority of today's office workers or wage-earners to make an individual mark?

They may, of course, work their way up the career ladder by means of hard work and learning. But that as a rule leads only to routine at a higher level, and not to the acclaim we would all appreciate at least once in a lifetime.

Work today too seldom offers an opportunity of distinction, of being seen to be better than the rest. Elbow grease and ambition are not felt to be particularly social behaviour. There is a trend toward conformity that is hard to resist.

The only form of achievement that is accepted without ill-will is sporting, artistic and, at times, scientific accomplishment. In business and at work ambition is felt to be suspicious.

The million German buyers of the Guinness Book of Records are anything but frustrated Nobel laureates or undiscovered inventors.

Their unbounden play instinct cannot be converted by either cash or subterfuge into brilliant improvements in the gross national product.

In the everyday working world too little allowance is made for the spirit of adventure. Discipline is in greater demand that an outsider's prowess.

There is a growing gap between work and leisure, and an increasing proportion of the energy that used to be devoted to work is now invested in a hobby, in holidays or in other sidelines of one kind or another.

The teenagers who crack computer codes and sell pirate copies of computer games may be taken to court. Technically speaking, they surely deserve our admiration.

Is there nowhere better for the kids to develop the skills they have gained than in jail where they could end up?

The senseless record race proves the spirit of adventure and the desire for success and fulfilment are not dead or facing extinction.

Young people, too many of whom head straight for the dole queue, need to be shown targets in life. It is up to us to show them something better to do than stand on one leg for as long as possible.

Wolfgang Wagner

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 April 1984)